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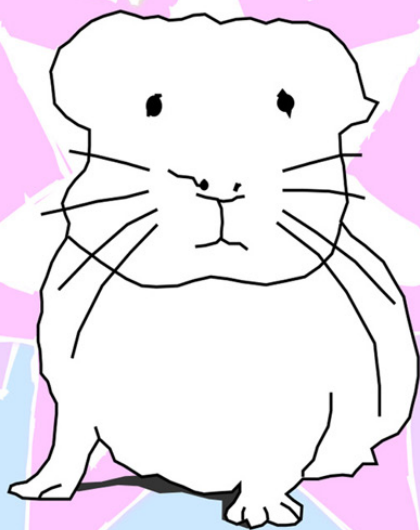
Creative Writing *Tutor*

Dinosaur

Discovery

Age: 9-13 years

KS2/3



*Brush up on your
Writing Skills*

Title Page

Creative Writing Tutor

DINOSAUR DISCOVERY

by

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Choose a topic and start to practise writing. Each booklet has a
theme to help you start to write...stories, reports, articles, letters
and many more. Start collecting them now.

Guinea Pig Creative Writing booklets also provide extra practice for
children who have completed:

- Creative Story Writing
- Persuasive Writing & Argument
- Information Writing

They are for children who are working at Key Stage 2 of the
National Curriculum, levels 3-5 (in Years 5 and 6 of primary
school), children who are working at Key Stage 3, levels 3-5 (Years
7 and 8 of Secondary School). They provide practice for all 9-13
year olds, especially children taking 11+ examinations.

First things first...

Let's learn to write non-fiction.

When you write non-fiction, you may write:

- a newspaper report
- an information leaflet
- instructions
- a diary entry

You must decide:

- Who will be my target audience?
- Who will read this writing?
- What is the purpose of my writing?

The form might be: an information leaflet

The audience might be: older primary school children (9-11 years)

The purpose might be: to inform them about some historical facts

Plan your non-fiction writing

PARAGRAPH 1

- Introduce your topic. Write down some facts about your chosen subject.

PARAGRAPH 2, 3, 4...

- Write down the points you want to make in order.
- Include some evidence.

Conclusion

- Draw all your ideas together in a conclusion.

Remember

- Use:
 - ☐ facts
 - ☐ opinions
 - ☐ opinions in facts.
- Use connectives or conjunctions:
 - ☐ and or but (to join compound sentences)
 - ☐ or, so, if, when, while, after, before, because, unless, until, whereas, although (to join complex sentences)
 - ☐ use pronouns - who, which, whose, what, that
 - ☐ to link ideas use - firstly, later, therefore, on the other hand, at that moment, by this time, next, soon...
- Use a range of sentences -simple, compound and complex sentences
- Make personal comments

New Dinosaur

Let's talk about a **new dinosaur**. He was as big as a four-storey house and had a neck ten times longer than a giraffe.

An information sheet about the new dinosaur is being written. Your task is to write a Leaflet for older children about the dinosaur.

First, use your imagination to answer these questions:

- **Where was the dinosaur found?**
- **What did he look like?**
- **What did he eat?**
- **Why did he die?**

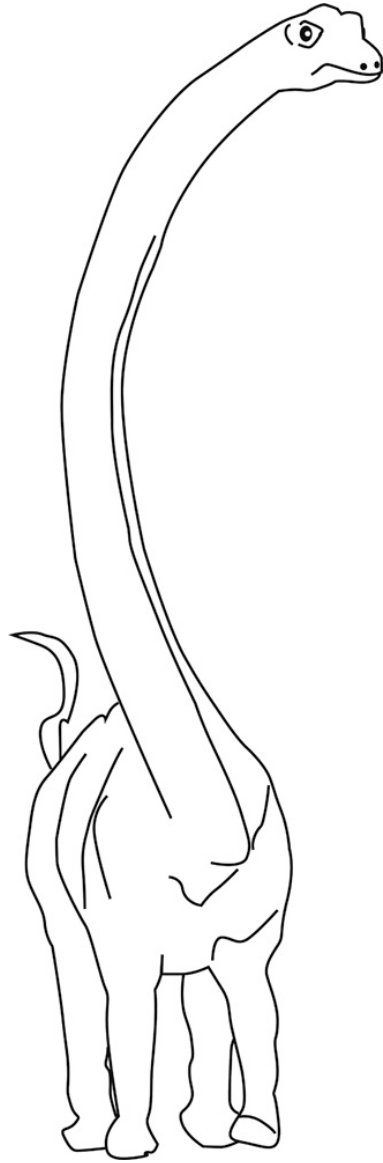
BODY metres

NECK metres

TAIL metres

SPINAL COLUMN

Draw what you think he would look like.



Read this

In Argentina, a team of palaeontologists have discovered the remains of a giant dinosaur that roamed the earth 80,000,000 million years ago. His skeleton was excavated in Palegonia on the banks of a lake. At that time, the land was warm, humid and

covered in forest, but now it is a wind swept plain.

The dinosaur was big, strong and huge. It was as tall as a four-storey building, with a neck ten times longer than a giraffe. Even more amazing, its body measured 32-34 metres from head to tail and its neck was 17 metres, which is longer than a bendy bus.

John Renoir, a palaeontologist, told a news conference, "It's an unknown species, maybe a Titanosaur. This is one of the biggest dinosaur skeletons found in the world. Its fossil is seventy percent preserved - (compared to only ten percent of other dinosaurs.) Scientists have been able to study his whole vertebrae or backbone, from the neck to its tail."

Other well-preserved fossils of fish have been found in this area. They came from an ecosystem in the late Cretaceous period.

Scientists believe that fossilised leaves, found near the skeleton, would have been part of the dinosaur's diet. He may have been a herbivore - another name for a vegetarian.

What happened to this giant dinosaur? Nobody knows how he died. Scientists will closely examine every bone to find the cause of his death. It maybe its flesh was eaten by predators and its skeleton was washed into the lake by a fast flowing river with debris and leaves. Over thousands of years, this skeleton formed a barrier accumulating more bones and leaves until it became fossilised. Another fossil, that was found, has a large arm with sickle shaped claws.

Answer these questions in sentences. Try and use a different word to start each sentence. Scan the information for key words that will help you find the answers. Tables help readers find information quickly.

- **Where was he discovered?**
- **What is this land like?**
- **When did he live?**
- **What do the palaeontologists think he looked like?**
- **What size was he?**
- **How long was his body and his neck?**
- **What could he be compared to?**
- **Why are scientists excited by the find?**
- **What other fossils have been found?**
- **What clues do they give us about the life of the giant**

dinosaur?

- **How might he have died?**
- **How will scientists discover these facts?**



A dinosaur was found in:

- *Argentina, Palegonia, on the banks of a lake, near a windswept plain and a warm humid forest.*

It is important to scientists because:

- *It is a new species and one of the biggest and most complete fossils found. Scientists have the whole backbone.*

It ate:

- *vegetation*

- *leaves (a herbivore)*

Its appearance:

- *big neck*
- *strong*
- *huge*
- *giant*

Palaeontologists found:

- *the fossil of a giant dinosaur that lived 80,000,000 million years ago.*

The dinosaur was big:

- *It measured 32-34 metres from head to tail. Its neck was 17 metres, ten times bigger than a giraffe and bigger than two buses.*
- *Its spinal column weighed 8 tonnes.*

Write a leaflet for older children about a new dinosaur that has been discovered. Use the information on the previous pages to help you write. Make up your own facts: name, measurements, characteristics.

1. Choose a title.

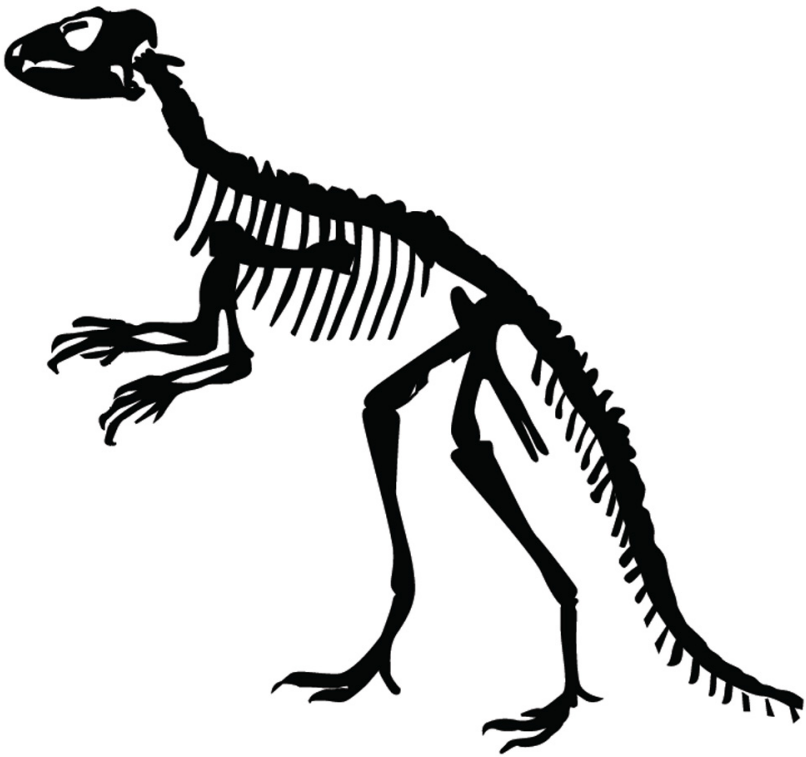
2. Start with a short introduction explaining what you are going to write about.

You could use the following sub headings to help you write down your points in paragraphs.

- **Where was the dinosaur found?**
- **What fossils have been found and how old are they?**
- **What did dinosaurs eat?**
- **How big was the dinosaur?**
- **What the dinosaur looked like.**
- **Why a new dinosaur fossil is important to scientists.**

3. Write a conclusion or ending. Summarise what you have found

out. Make some overall comments.



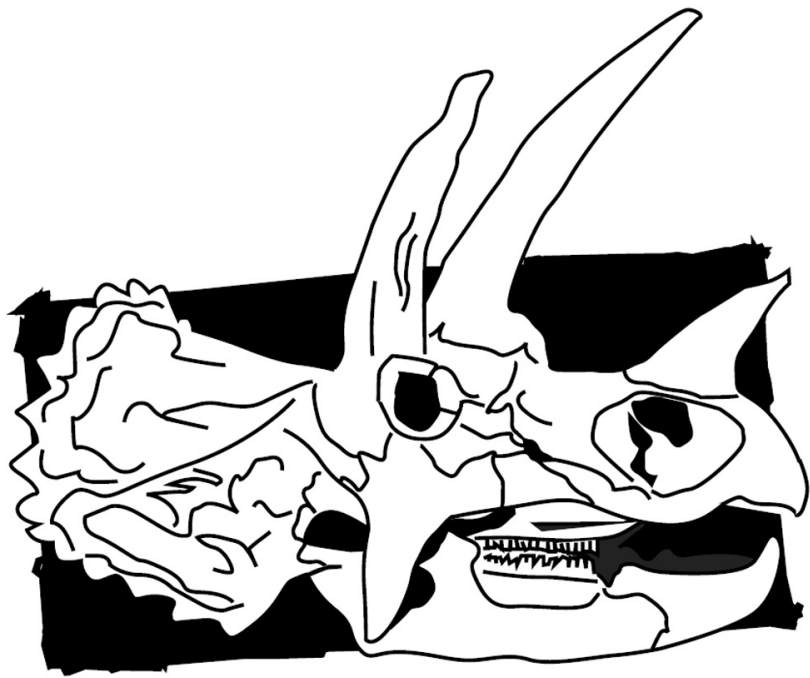
Non fiction writing uses:

- **Different fonts**
- **Bold print**
- **Tables and diagrams**
- **Headings and subheadings**
- **Bullet points**

...to help the reader find information quickly.

America

Below are some facts about another dinosaur discovery in America. Write a newspaper article reporting what they have found. These facts are written in note form. You must write in sentences.



What was found?

- four skulls from a giant dinosaur called the Saurapod
- a new species
- that lived 105 million years ago

Where was it found?

- found embedded in sand and mud
- in a sand stone quarry in Utah by palaeontologists

What did it look like?

- was one of the biggest animals to roam the earth
- young adults were 25 feet long - not fully grown
- four legged, long neck
- lots of dainty teeth for eating plants and swallowing them whole

How did it die?

- believed to have died huddled by a stream
- scientists will study its bones to find out how it died
- believe its flesh was eaten by a predator
- bones fell into the river with leaves and fossilised

Why is it important?

- it is extremely rare - its long delicate skeleton does not usually preserve

EXCLUSIVE NEWS TODAY		January 22 nd 2020	
THE DAILY NEWS			
ALL ABOUT THE BIG WORLD WE LIVE IN			
FIND DATED AT OVER 25 MILLION YEARS OLD. READ OUR EXCLUSIVE REPORT.		LEADING PALAEOLOGIST JIM HEAD, SPEAKS OUT ON THIS MIND BLOWING FIND.	
SKULLS FOUND <i>Amazing Dinosaur Discovery.</i>			
By Anya Smith			
<u>WRITE</u>			
What they found.....			
Where.....			
When.....			
What they looked like.....			
Where they lived.....			
How we know they are plant eaters?		Picture: Dinosaur Skulls	
Whata scientist says?.....		Why they died?.....	
		How they died based on evidence.....	
		Another scientist said.....	
		Why this is such an important discovery?	
			
			
		(Finish with a comment)	

Newspaper reports are made up of **FACTS** and **OPINIONS**.

A **FACT** is a piece of information that is true: *'The bones of dinosaurs have been found in America'.*

An **OPINION** is what somebody believes might be right. It is how a person sees something, but it might not be true: *'The discovery of another dinosaur in America is exciting'.*

Sometimes **opinions** are hidden in **facts**: *'The Saurapod, a scary dinosaur, was one of the biggest animals to roam the earth'.*

You can include facts and opinions in your report.

About Newspapers

A newspaper article has a bold headline to catch the reader's attention and make him or her want to buy the paper. It can be exciting or alarming. The strap line summarises the story, catches the interest of the reader and makes him want to read on. There might be a further sub heading in bold font.

Paragraphs in a newspaper are usually short, only one or two sentences long. The first paragraph gives the main details of a story. Further paragraphs give more details about the story in chronological order. They contain facts and opinions. The second half of a newspaper article will contain quotations from the people who were there. It may provide further background information from experts like scientists or comments from the writer.

The picture may have a caption: some words which will explain it.

Direct speech - *John Renoir said, "It's an unknown species."*

Indirect or reported speech - *He said that it is an unknown species.*

Tricky dinosaur vocabulary

palaeontologist
dinosaur
eco system
vertebrae
discovered
left overs
unearthed
fossilised remains
dead
track down
stumble on
scientist
humid climate
Cretaceous period
herbivore
remains
fragments
skeleton
prehistoric
discover a bone
unearth
wind swept plain
fossil
species
Titanosaur
vegetation
remnants
debris
frame
extinct
come across
dig up
excavate

Add more words to the list.

Look up the words above in a thesaurus or dictionary.

Let's Write a Story

Let your imagination *run wild*...

Introduction (*setting, characters and start the plot*)

- What would it be like to meet a dinosaur?
- Ask

- ☐ Where?
- ☐ When?
- ☐ Why?
- ☐ How?
- ☐ Which?

- **Middle** (*complication, problem, action, tension, suspense*)

- ☐ What would happen next? and after that... ?
- ☐ What action would take place?
- ☐ Would it be scary?
- ☐ Would it be a terrifying, meat eating predator?
- ☐ Would it chase me?

- **Ending** (*resolution or conclusion*)

- ☐ How would I get away?
- ☐ How would the story end?

There was nothing extraordinary about that Thursday afternoon in the Christmas holiday, except that mum and dad had planned a surprise but what a surprise it turned out to be. I remember that morning. We were following a crowd of people. I eyed the children enviously who were skating on the ice rink, but we didn't stop there. Instead, we entered the grand door of the museum, passed the huge dinosaur skeleton on display and continued on until we came to a notice pointing to the Human Body Experience. This was another one of Dad's ideas to help me with my school work. There were loads of hands on activities to help me learn. Was I in the

mood for this? For an hour we pushed levers to show how muscles work, pressed buttons to move blood round the heart and lit up signals to demonstrate the nervous system. Then my brain was overloaded with all those facts and I knew that was all I could take in on a Thursday afternoon in the Christmas holiday.

An hour later, we were back in the main hall. I held out the crumpled plan, I'd been clasping in my hand and scrutinised it. It was then I spied a new exhibition 'Meet the dinosaurs'.

"Can we take a look at that one," I cried out excitedly to my parents. Without waiting for an answer I clambered up the steps and set out along the viewing platform. Alone up there, it was dark, it was scary, it was terrifying. The great bodies of huge pterodactyl hung precariously from the ceiling. The ancient relics of skulls watched on silently. Then, I came to the animated exhibit of the man-eating, Tyrannosaurus Rex, the most dangerous of its species. As I stopped to watch, it moved its head showing a jaw full of sharp teeth and let out a mighty roar. Our eyes met. It growled, tossing its huge head from side to side and fixed its gaze on me. It had a look of malice. What was that feeling in my stomach? Fear? Worse than this, the creature was moving towards me with huge strides, coming closer and closer. Was he coming alive? My brain gave me the signal to run. I fled along the dark platform, down the corridor and through the emergency exit. The dinosaur charged at me with his mouth wide open.

"Help, help!" I screamed. Would he eat me alive?

I ran outside into the fresh air to escape the oppressive atmosphere of that museum, only to find I was in a different environment. The Cromwell Road had vanished off the face of the earth. To my horror, I saw it had been replaced by a shrubby wilderness of ferns, that stretched into the distance. Had I gone back in time to a different time zone? Was this London 75 million years ago? I didn't have time to reason. The monster was advancing on me. He was growling with fury. Before I knew it, he had caught me up and his teeth were descending rapidly into my flesh... Would he rip me to pieces, chew me up and swallow me down. I can't describe what I felt like at this moment because everything went dark. I believe I lost consciousness... but when my eyes did flutter open I was staring up into the eyes of my mum and dad, who were leaning over me looking very anxious.

"What happened?" they stammered. "We thought you had

fainted.” As I scrambled up, I cast a sideways glance at the dinosaur. I stared in disbelief. What did I see? It was only a man made mechanical model of a dinosaur with eyes that had been skilfully painted on. It couldn’t have chased me, could it? I would never really solve the mystery of what happened on that day.

Now write the story you planned.

Also Available

Creative Writing *Tutor*

At The Stroke Of

Midnight

Age: 9-13 years

KS2/3



*Brush up on your
Writing Skills*